



**Innovative CTE Curriculum Grant FAQs  
March 11, 2014**

**Q: What changes have been made to the grant guidelines since its release?**

A: CECI made two significant changes to the grant guidelines. Firstly, the deadline for grant cycle 1 has been moved to **May 15<sup>th</sup>** for applications to be submitted to CECI. This will allow for more time for regional works councils to offer recommendations and sign off on grant proposals.

Secondly, the point system has been revised to reflect more accurately CECI's commitment to accountability and sustainability. The point system is now:

- 15 points: Statement of Need
- 50 points: Curriculum
- 25 points: Accountability
- 10 points: Budget narrative

**Q: Where can we find information concerning the grant and the grant applications so we can see if we qualify for it?**

A: General information concerning the Innovative CTE Curriculum Grant may be found on the Indiana Regional Works Councils website by clicking [HERE](#). A webinar video concerning this grant may be viewed [HERE](#).

**Q: How does CECI define innovation?**

A: When thinking about innovation in education, CECI encourages individuals and schools to think about how existing ideas and structures can be re-imagined in new and exciting ways. Innovation does not necessarily require new concepts, but it does necessitate thinking in novel ways. Much of the literature around innovation discusses the concept of the "adjacent possible," which posits that innovation is an iterative process. New ideas emerge from exploring connections and making changes in meaningful ways. In education, multiple silos have existed independent of one another for decades. Innovation occurs in making those connections and creatively addressing calls for progress.

**Q: If I have multiple private investors willing to provide matching funds, may I group their funding into the same grant proposal?**

A: Yes, private investment matching funds for a single grant proposal may come from more than one entity.



**Q: Is the private match in-kind or must it be actual dollars?**

A: The private match requirement may be either in-kind or actual dollars.

**Q: Can grant funds or matching funds be used for classroom infrastructure or bricks and mortar construction?**

A: No. The purpose of this grant is to foster innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum. Constructing new rooms/buildings does not fit within this description. However, new equipment, if required as part of innovative CTE curricula, may be purchased using grant funds.

**Q: Is there a maximum grant amount for an individual grant application?**

A: No, there is no set maximum. However, please keep in mind that this is a competitive grant process with a total of \$4.3 million available to fund **both** grant cycles outlined within the grant guidelines.

**Q: Can a Regional Works Council only submit one grant application?**

A: No. A Regional Works Council **makes recommendations to grant applicants**, and the chairperson signs off on each grant that the Works Council approves. CECI staff expect that there may be multiple grant applications in each region. While CECI encourages each council to review and approve each grant, it is the responsibility of the grant applicant to submit the grant.

**Q: How do you ensure that there is not bias from the Works Council when several members may be employees of competing school districts?**

A: CECI is developing a comprehensive review process that will be conducted by a panel representing multiple different agencies. At the local level, CECI recommends that Works Councils develop transparent review processes. If Works Council members submit their own grant applications, they should abstain from any votes that take place to avoid a conflict of interest or perceived bias.

**Q: If I am looking to add a Technology Education class or a class on Construction Systems, would this grant be able to help with funding for required equipment?**

A: Yes, with the assumption that the approach to instruction is innovative in nature. Grant funds may be approved for equipment costs as long as the equipment is used in order to help foster innovative CTE curriculum.

**Q: Can grant funding be used to help develop standards and content for innovative CTE curricula, or must the curricula be fully developed prior to applying for the grant?**

A: Grant funding may be used to develop standards and content for innovative CTE curricula or for curricula that is more fully developed.

**Q: Is this funding only for the creation of curriculum, or are organizations that currently offer CTE curriculum eligible?**

A: Organizations that currently offer CTE curriculum are eligible for grant funding. However, in order for a grant application to be approved, it must offer an innovative approach to CTE education.

**Q: Is the \$4.3 million for both grant cycles, or will there be an additional \$4.3 million for the second grant cycle?**

A: The \$4.3 million will span both grant cycles. At this time, there is no additional grant funding for the second grant cycle outside of the initial \$4.3 million appropriated for this grant.

**Q: In what time-span does grant funding have to be spent?**

A: The grant will consist of two grant cycles, each with its own timeframe. Grant cycle 1 will allow grant funds to be spent between July 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015. Grant cycle 2 will allow grant funds to be spent between April 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

**Q: Is this grant available to Postsecondary Technology schools who are not on a regular school calendar like traditional schools?**

A: Yes. Eligible applicants include postsecondary institutions. The grant proposal must meet two main criteria: (1) the grant funding will be used to help foster innovative CTE curricula, and (2) the grant application receives approval from the appropriate Regional Works Council. Grant applicants are responsible for ensuring that the Chairperson of their Works Council signs the cover sheet, indicating support for the grant application. Grant applicants submit the grant proposals to the Center for Education and Career Innovation (CECI).

**Q: May applicants include letters of support in a grant proposal?**

A: Yes. Applicants are not required to include any letters of support but may do so. Such letters will not count against any stated page limitations.



**Q: May a local public school district apply?**

A: Yes. Eligible applicants include local public school districts. The grant proposal must meet two main criteria: (1) the grant funding will be used to help foster innovative CTE curricula, and (2) the grant application receives approval from the appropriate Regional Works Council. Grant applicants are responsible for ensuring that the Chairperson of their Works Council signs the cover sheet, indicating support for the grant application. Grant applicants submit the grant proposals to the Center for Education and Career Innovation (CECI).